	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/055,442	HUNTLEY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phuoc H. Nguyen	2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *an amendment filed on January 10, 2007 and was interviewed on April 23, 2007*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1, 5-7, 9-13, 16, 19-21, 23, 28-32, and 35-50* .

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

   1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *April 23, 2007* .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Michael J.A. Leinauer (Reg. No. 55,795) on April 23, 2007.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 2-4, 8, 14-15, 17-18, 22, 24-27, and 33-34 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 7, 12, 19-20, 23, 28-32, 36-38, and 40-41 has been amended as follow:

1. (currently amended) An e-mail-enabled automation control module (ACM) system

comprising:

an ACM; and

an e-mail system electrically connected to said ACM that is configured to automatically

control at least one device without user intervention and that is coupled to a backplane, said e-

mail system configured to perform at least one of sending e-mail messages from said ACM

through a network, and receiving e-mail messages from the network, said e-mail system

comprises at least one mailbox configured to store at least one e-mail message, said e-mail

system further configured to allow at least one of a user that is connected to said e-mail system

through the network and the at least one device to perform at least one of read, modify, and

delete the e-mail messages stored in said at least one mailbox, wherein the e-mail messages

<u>include at least one of ACM data and ACM notifications from at least one of another ACM and</u>

<u>another device.</u>

7. (currently amended) An ACM system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said e-mail system comprises an e-mail server configured to perform at least one of receive the e-mail messages from the network, transfer <u>the</u> ACM data to and from said ACM, transfer <u>the</u> ACM notifications to and from said ACM, and receive and respond to e-mail transfer requests from the network.

12. (currently amended) A method for management and control of a first automation control module (ACM), the first ACM including an e-mail system electrically connected to the first ACM and a network, said method comprising:

sending e-mail messages from the first ACM through the network using the e-mail system;

receiving e-mail messages from the network using the e-mail system;

storing the email messages from the first ACM and the email messages from the network in at least one mailbox;

requesting, by the first ACM, information via the e-mail system from a second ACM, wherein the first ACM automatically controls a device without user intervention and is coupled to a backplane;

granting at least one of a user on the network and the device access to the at least one

mailbox; and

allowing the user to perform at least one of read, modify, and delete the e-mail messages

stored in the at least one mailbox, wherein the e-mail messages include at least one of ACM data

and ACM notifications from at least one of another ACM and another device.

19. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 16 wherein receiving e-

mail messages from the network using the e-mail server comprising transferring the ACM data to

and from the first ACM.

20. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 16 wherein receiving e-

mail messages from the network using the e-mail server comprising transferring the ACM

notifications to and from the first ACM.

23. (currently amended) A method for management and control of an automation

control module (ACM) using an ACM system, the ACM system including a first ACM, a

network, a general purpose computer electrically connected to the network, and an e-mail

subsystem electrically connected to the first ACM and the network, said method comprising:

sending e-mail messages from the first ACM through the network to the general purpose

computer using the e-mail subsystem;

receiving e-mail messages from the general purpose computer through the network using

the e-mail subsystem;

storing the email messages from the first ACM and the email messages from the general

purpose computer in at least one mailbox;

requesting information via the e-mail subsystem from a second ACM, wherein said

requesting information is performed by the first ACM that is configured to automatically control

at least one device without user intervention and that is coupled to a ~~backplane.~~ backplane;

granting at least one of a user on the network and the at least one device access to the at

least one mailbox; and

allowing the user to perform at least one of read, modify, and delete the e-mail messages

stored in the at least one mailbox, wherein the e-mail messages include at least one of ACM data

and ACM notifications from at least one of another ACM and another device.

28. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 23 further comprising:

transferring the ACM data to the first ACM from the e-mail subsystem; and

transferring the ACM data to the e-mail subsystem from the first ACM.

29. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 23 further comprising:

transferring the ACM notifications to the first ACM from the e-mail subsystem; and

transferring the ACM notifications to the e-mail subsystem from the first ACM.

30. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 23 wherein the system

further comprises at least one other ACM electrically connected to the network, said method

further comprising:

sending the ACM data to the at least one other ACM through the network using the e-mail subsystem; and

receiving the ACM data from the at least one other ACM through the network using the e-mail subsystem.

31. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 23 wherein the system further comprises at least one other ACM electrically connected to the network, said method further comprising:

sending the ACM notifications to the at least one other ACM through the network using the e-mail subsystem; and

receiving the ACM notifications from the at least one other ACM through the network using the e-mail subsystem.

32. (currently amended) An automation control module (ACM) system comprising:

an ACM;

a network;

a general purpose computer electrically connected to said network; and

an e-mail subsystem electrically connected to said network and said ACM, wherein said ACM is configured to automatically control at least one device without user intervention and is coupled to a backplane, said e-mail subsystem configured to perform at least one of sending e-

mail messages from said ACM through said network to said general purpose computer and

receiving e-mail messages from said general purpose computer through said network, said e-mail

subsystem comprises at least one mailbox configured to store at least one e-mail message, said e-

mail subsystem further configured to allow at least one of a user that is connected to said e-mail

subsystem through the network and the at least one device to perform at least one of read,

modify, and delete the e-mail messages stored in said at least one mailbox, wherein the e-mail

messages include at least one of ACM data and ACM notifications from at least one of another

ACM and another device.

36. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim ~~33~~ 32 wherein said e-mail

subsystem further configured to transfer the ACM data to and from said ACM.

37. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim ~~33~~ 32 wherein said e-mail

subsystem further configured to transfer the ACM notifications to and from said ACM.

38. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim ~~33~~ 32 wherein said e-mail

subsystem further configured to receive and respond to e-mail transfer requests.

40. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 32 further comprising at

least one other ACM electrically connected to the network, said e-mail subsystem further

configured to:

send the ACM data to said at least one other ACM through said network; and

receive the ACM data from said at least one other ACM through said network.

41. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 32 further comprising at least one other ACM electrically connected to said network, said e-mail subsystem further configured to:

send the ACM notifications to said at least one other ACM through said network; and

receive the ACM notifications from said at least one other ACM through said network.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

1.   This office action is in response to the amendment filed on January 10, 2007 and was interviewed on April 16, 2007.

2.   Applicant amended claims 1, 7, 12, 19, 20, 23, 28-32, 36-38, 40, 41 and cancelled claims 2-4, 8, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 24-27, 33, 34.

3.   Claims 1, 5-7, 9-13, 16, 19-21, 23, 28-32, and 35-50 are allowed.

4.   The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The present invention is directed to a system and method for an e-mail enabled automation control module (ACM). The independent claims 1, 12, 23, and 32 uniquely identify a distinct feature "an e-mail system electrically connected to said ACM that is configured to automatically control at least one device without user intervention and that is coupled to a backplane, said email system configured to perform at least one of sending e-mail messages from ACM through a network, wherein the e-mail messages include at least one of ACM data and ACM notifications from at least one of another ACM and another device" and in combination with other limitations as set forth in the independent

forth in the independent claims. Claims 5-7, 9-11, 13, 16, 19-21, 28-31, and 35-50 are

allowed due to dependent claims.

5.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for

Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Phuoc H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3919.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Phuoc H Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2143